

Democratic Members of the Ways and Means Committee—and often proved to be a thorn in the side of my friends across the aisle. What most of my colleagues don't know is that I was the beneficiary of Al's budgetary wisdom long before he came to Washington to work on the staff of the Ways and Means Committee or the House Budget Committee before that. In the late 1970s when I served as Chairman of the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance Al was toiling away as an economist for the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

In his work for the Ways and Means Committee Al himself was often unseen and unheard by the public, but the information he produced was routinely cited in the media. Not only did Al author remarkably insightful memos and produce easy-to-understand charts for us to use in debate on the floor and in the Ways and Means Committee, he frequently briefed reporters and opinion leaders about the effects of arcane budget and tax matters before Congress. Even though Al routinely prepared Ranking Member RANGEL and numerous other Members of Congress for television and radio interviews, I'm sure that his most proud achievement was coming up with the chart I used in my Spring 2001 newsletter to the constituents of Wisconsin's 4th District.

Al Davis was a kind and public-spirited man whose good work in this institution will not soon be forgotten. He was an expert in his field and earned the respect of his colleagues through his thoughtful analysis and wise counsel. Al simply had an answer for every conceivable question. One of his greatest attributes was his skill at explaining how tax and budget proposals would affect the working families and average Americans that we represent.

His dedication to his work was unmatched. He would often e-mail memos to staff late into the night so that Members of the Committee would be prepared for debate first thing in the morning. The Ways and Means Committee and this Congress as a whole will be at a loss without his vast expertise.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues in the House today to honor and recognize the career of our friend Al Davis. His integrity, character, and expertise in all matters related to the tax code and the federal budget will be sorely missed by this body.

TRIBUTE TO GUADALUPE
SANCHEZ DE OTERO

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of Guadalupe Sanchez de Otero, the director of the Andrew Sanchez Memorial Youth Center. Ms. Otero was recently selected as a 2003 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. She was one of ten people nationally to be selected for this prestigious award, which includes a grant of over \$100,000 to enhance her work.

Ms. Otero is the founder and director, without pay, of the Andrew Sanchez Memorial Youth Center in Columbus, New Mexico. The center provides a safe play space for local children, many of whose parents are farm la-

borers who work long hours and cannot afford childcare. The center's programs also include health fairs, community meetings, sewing classes, and craft activities. Ms. Otero expanded the center's services when she saw growing numbers of senior residents suffering from isolation and poor nutrition. To combat this problem, she and her mother cashed in hundreds of aluminum cans to be able to serve seniors hot meals at the center. They also organized young people to deliver food to homebound seniors.

Ms. Otero founded the center in 1996 in an old fire station after launching the Health Promotores program in 1995. Through her work with the Health Promotores program, Ms. Otero quickly saw the many needs of the rural area on the U.S.-Mexican border, an area where more than half of the families live below the poverty line.

In addition to founding the Andrew Sanchez Memorial Youth Center, Ms. Otero helped launch a mobile health clinic, created a bilingual support group for diabetics, provided farm worker health and pesticide safety education, and assisted with the effort to turn around an abandoned tavern into the Columbus Public Library.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Ms. Guadalupe Sanchez de Otero on this well-earned distinction, and express my gratitude for her determination and leadership. I commend Ms. Otero and her staff for the hard work they continue to perform, and I am proud to recognize her today before my colleagues a model of commitment to human service.

Ms. Otero's nominator for the award put it best by saying, "Lupe doesn't just talk about what's needed, but rather recognizes it and takes action in her own special way."

RECOGNIZING CLEVELAND,
TENNESSEE AS "FLAG CITY"

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Cleveland, Tennessee, which I have the awesome privilege to represent and join them in celebrating the upcoming Flag Day ceremonies on June 14th.

Beginning in the late 1800s, communities across the nation began envisioning a special day for celebrating our flag and the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. In 1949, President Harry Truman signed a Congressional Resolution designating June 14th of each year as Flag Day.

The "Stars and Stripes" is a symbol to the world of the eternal principles that our nation was founded upon. Our flag is also a powerful reminder that our freedoms and liberties exist only because of the incredible sacrifices made by countless Americans in defense of our country. It is for that reason we must honor and pay tribute to our flag.

I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the work of a very special group of individuals from Cleveland, Tennessee who came together as a community to find a truly patriotic way to celebrate Flag Day. Members of the Cleveland Kiwanis Club raised over \$22,000 from community businesses and volunteers and organized efforts to fly over 500 American flags on the streets of Cleveland.

It is a humbling sight and a perfect tribute to America and to the veterans who defended her. When a noble idea is coupled with a dedicated group of people—great things can happen.

I would like to personally thank Mayor Tom Rowland, State Senator Jeff Miller, State Representatives Dewayne Bunch and Chris Newton, the Cleveland Kiwanis Club, and the citizens of Cleveland and Bradley County, Tennessee for their efforts in this endeavor. It is an honor to represent and serve a "flag city."

HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING AN-
NIVERSARY OF JOSEPH AND
CLARA LEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joseph and Clara Lee for 50 years of marriage, a remarkable milestone and testament to their love for each other. The Nashville, Tennessee, couple will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 12.

Joseph and Clara's marriage has been blessed. They have five children, six grandchildren, one great-grandchild, five step-grandchildren and six step-great-grandchildren, as well as countless friends. The Lees place a strong emphasis on family and friends, which is evident in their everyday deeds. And they made sure each of their children had the opportunity to get a college education, with all five receiving college degrees. And they have striven to help friends in any way they could.

Joseph was a longtime educator and counseled many children during his work with several youth programs over the years. Clara helped countless people during her work as a nurse. Both are very active in their church and community and have garnered a wealth of respect along the way.

I cordially congratulate Joseph and Clara for their commitment to one another, their family and their community. All of us should follow the example of Joseph and Clara, whose entire existence exudes compassion, loyalty and service to others. I wish them the very best on their 50th wedding anniversary and hope more of us can follow in their footsteps.

TRIBUTE TO COACH LELAND
YOUNG

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Mr. Leland Young of Rosedale, Mississippi. He dedicated his life to serving Mississippi's local youth athletes for 61 years.

Mr. Young was born July 28, 1941, in Ripley, Mississippi to Leland and Willie Young. He married Mary Katherine Jacob of Clarksdale on June 6, 1964. Together they had one daughter.

During his coaching career he built an impressive record of 221–63–2. He led Rosedale High School to four North Mississippi State

Championships and three State Championships in football. His team also won the Delta Valley Conference Football Championship. At the time of his retirement, Rosedale High School held the state record for the most consecutive wins.

Mr. Young also led the track team to a State Track Championship in 1983. He won the "DVC Track Coach of the Year" award in 1983 and the "State Track Coach of the Year" award the same year.

Mr. Young was inducted into the Delta State University Alumni Coaches Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Mississippi High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 2001. The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity awarded him in 2001 with a plaque for distinguished service rendered in the field of sports. He was the 2002 Bolivar Commercial Coach of the Year and was in The Bolivar Commercial Quarter Century Club in 2000. He was also Co-Coach of Year for the Delta Democrat Times in 2002.

He was an avid golfer and outdoorsman. He was a member of the Delta State University Athletic Alumni Association, Mississippi Association of Coaches, Donaldson Point Hunting Club, Rosedale Country Club and Rosedale Methodist Church. Mr. Leland Young will be dearly missed by his community.

INTRODUCING THE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Child Protection Services Workforce Improvement Act. This bill is aimed at helping states improve their child protection services through grants and assistance that allow them to expand and enhance their child welfare workforce.

Many State child protection agencies are the last line of defense in caring for abused and neglected children. Today, these agencies are suffering from staffing problems that have been compounded by budget cuts and inadequate funding. The result in many cases is a failure to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children in our society.

I am sure that many of my colleagues have seen in their local newspapers or heard of a case where a child was severely abused or killed because a child protection agency ignored dangers posed to a child by their foster family or adoptive parents. Just look at the case of Indiana. A total of 70 kids died there from abuse and neglect in July 2001 to July 2002—this was a new State record. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Service Children Family and Service Review found that the cause of this was in part due to the state child protection agencies failure to sufficiently reduce incidences of repeated mistreatment. It also warned that state budget cuts will further impact Indiana's limited ability to track such incidences.

In Colorado, State budget cuts have reduced the size of foster care review teams to the point that the State won't be able to meet federal requirements that foster children be checked on at least twice a year. In Arizona, budget cuts there have led to 32 percent of

children in State custody being stuck in temporary placements for over 2 years. In South Carolina, some 500 positions in the State's social service agency—many involving child welfare—have been zeroed out. The same is true for many other States. There is no question that States need federal help to improve their ability to help and care for children in need.

These nationwide problems are why I am introducing the Child Protection Services Workforce Improvement Act. It provides States with \$500 million in matching grants over 5 years to improve these services where it is needed most: Increasing the number of qualified child welfare workers. States can use these matching grants for their private and public child welfare agencies to: Reduce the turnover and vacancy rate of child welfare agencies, increase education and training of child welfare workers, attract and retain qualified candidates and coordinate services with other agencies, improve child welfare workers' wages, and increase the number of child welfare workers.

To retain qualified child welfare workers, my bill also allows student loan forgiveness for those who have been with an agency for at least two years. In order to improve the availability of quality services, this legislation provides a 75 percent federal match to pay for training of private child welfare workers, which is the same match rate provided to public child welfare agencies. My bill also allocates funding for child welfare agencies to provide short-term mental health training to caseworkers.

A recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report found that child welfare workers are leaving the child welfare profession because of low wages, risk of on the job violence, staff shortages, high caseloads, administrative burdens, lack of support from supervisors, and lack of proper training for child welfare workers and their supervisors.

The high turnover rate and high caseloads of child welfare workers limits the ability and efficiency of agencies to investigate and solve problems of child abuse and neglect. For instance, the study found that the above staff problems: Provides insufficient time for remaining staff to establish critical trusting relationships with the families and children which are important to make the necessary decisions to ensure safe and stable permanent placements; delays the timeliness of child abuse and neglect investigation; limits the frequency of worker visits with children who are the victims or alleged victims of child abuse or neglect; and hampers agencies' attainment of some key federal goals of ensuring the safety of children and placing them in permanent homes either through adoption, kinship care or reuniting them with their families.

The Child Welfare League of America, the Alliance for Children and Families, the National Association of Social Workers, the Lutheran Services in America and the Catholic Charities of America have endorsed this bill. These organizations understand the needed support this legislation will provide State efforts to help abused and neglected children.

Please join with us in supporting the Child Protection Services Workforce Improvement Act and provide much needed financial resources to our child welfare workforce to protect the most vulnerable children in our society. Congress has a responsibility to respond to this urgent need.

RECOGNIZING SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE OF SEQUENCING OF HUMAN GENOME AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR GOALS AND IDEALS OF HUMAN GENOME MONTH AND DNA DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. Speaker, let me join in with the gentleman from Florida and the gentleman from Ohio for their wisdom in bringing this legislation to the floor, and certainly to the gentlewoman from New York, who I enthusiastically join, along with the gentleman from Louisiana and the gentleman from Michigan on this important legislative initiative.

H. Con. Res. 110 is a resolution that helps to educate our colleagues but also it speaks truth to the American people, and gives due recognition to a great accomplishment for humankind. As a member of the House Committee on Science, we spent many, many hours on the question of the human genome and the Human Genome Project in particular. Sequencing of the human genome as one of the most significant scientific accomplishments of the past 100 years and expressing support of the goals and ideals of the Human Genome Month and DNA Day really is a statement about life.

It is a statement about the ability of the new science to be able, Mr. Speaker, to understand life, to help us understand where we came from, and how we fit into the world. It will also create improved health where that was not a possibility 10, 15, or 50 years ago.

It is crucial as the human genome project achieves its goal, and the essential completion of the reference sequence of the human genome carrying, that we begin to put our new knowledge to work. This has been a great investment, and the payoffs should benefit all of the American people. However, we must move thoughtfully and cautiously. One of the challenges that we have in this Congress is the whole question of human cloning. It is important not to equate these projects—research on the human genome DNA with the idea of the creation of a human being. We can have one without the other. We should not be so afraid of creating monsters, that we do not attempt to create cures.

It is important now as we have begun or understand the sequence that we allow this project to grow and to be utilized to help us determine the cures for diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, stroke, and yes, HIV/AIDS. The more we understand about the human being and its makeup, the more we can create a better way of life.

We well know of our renowned fictional character Superman. Christopher Reeves, who was the embodiment of the man of steel, has become a different kind of superman today. He may be in a wheelchair, but he is still making great bounds, trying time after time with a number of efforts to find the cure for those who suffer spinal injuries, some of the most devastating injuries that we will face. As we look to the wounded who will be coming home from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, they will be coming home with major injuries, some continuing to be life-threatening.